

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

There is a new dog tethering law

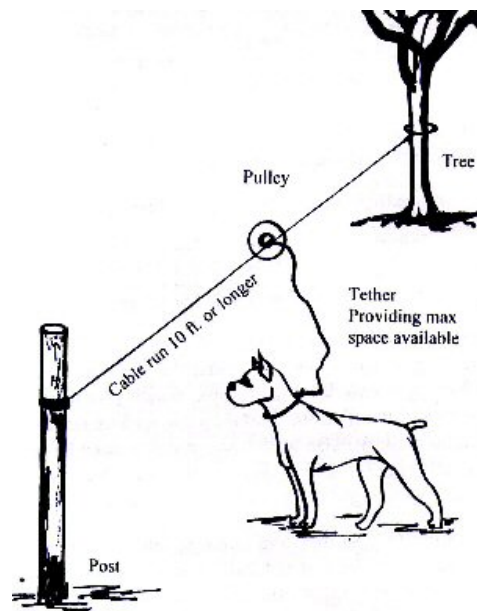
The San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program would like to inform dog owners that the State of California has enacted a law restricting the "tethering" of dogs. The new law took effect January 1, 2007.

The law states that no person shall tether, fasten, chain, tie or restrain a dog to a dog house, tree, fence, or any other stationary object for more than 3 hours in a 24-hour time period. As an alternative, dogs may be attached to a running line, pulley, or trolley system, (See example below) but they may not be attached to these systems with either a choke or pinch collar. A violation of this new anti-tethering law constitutes an infraction or misdemeanor, depending on the circumstances. A person convicted on an infraction will have to pay a fine of up to \$250 for each dog illegally tethered, while a person convicted of a misdemeanor will have to pay a fine of up to \$1000 for each dog illegally tethered and, in addition, may be sentenced to up to six months in the county jail.

Animal Care and Control personnel will respond to complaints of a tethered dog that is in violation of this new law. The officer will determine if the tethered animal is in need of prompt action, and if so, will act accordingly. Should prompt action not be required, a Notice of Violation will be issued to the dog owner for the violation.

The new law does not prevent a person from walking a dog with a hand held leash or from restraining a dog according to the requirements of a camping or recreational area. In addition, dogs used for herding cattle or livestock, for cultivating agricultural products, or who are actively engaged in or training for a licensed activity are not subject to the same restrictions.

If you have any questions about this new law or would like to report a violation, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1 (800) 472-5609.



(Acceptable System)